

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL APPROVAL OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

“Today, the United States Department of Education gave final approval to North Carolina’s plan for complying with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. We are now one of only 12 states to receive approval.

“This plan maintains our high standards for students and schools and includes tough new accountability measures. While some have suggested that the federal accountability plan would lead states to lower standards, we have taken the opposite approach. High standards and accountability have been key to the progress we have made in our schools. Recently, national exams in fourth and eighth grade math showed that we ranked eighth and 13th nationally on these tests. We lead the Southeast and are one of only a handful of states to have closed the achievement gap.

“Holding our students and schools to high standards will likely cause many of our schools to be labeled as in need of improvement, especially when it comes to closing the achievement gap. We should embrace these tough standards and never be satisfied with the status quo. However, the reduction in federal funding of the No Child Left Behind Act leaves states shorthanded when it comes to addressing identified educational needs.

“I want to thank Phil Kirk and the State Board of Education and Superintendent Mike Ward and the Department of Public Instruction for their hard work in putting the plan together. I look forward to working with them to continue to improve education for all children in North Carolina.”

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